



Why is Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge Considering an Expanded Boundary?

Responsibilities to Conserve Wildlife and Habitats

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), the principal federal agency charged with conserving, protecting and enhancing the nation's fish, wildlife, and plants. Although the Refuge represents a valuable contribution to the protection of biodiversity in the Columbia Plateau, several scientific assessments in the area indicate that much of the region's wildlife and habitats remains unprotected.

To address this concern, we are considering expanding the Refuge during the Comprehensive Conservation Planning process now underway. We are still in the conceptual stages and a new proposed boundary has not yet been drawn.

Specific Conservation Needs Include:

- Additional habitat for wetland dependent species
- Enhanced protection of water quality and quantity for waterfowl and other aquatic species
- Enhanced connectivity of the ponderosa pine ecosystem in Spokane County
- Additional protection of rare meadow steppe habitat in the Columbia Plateau

What If My Land Falls Within the Expanded Boundary?

- Expanding a boundary simply gives the federal government the option to offer 100% of fair market value for private property within the boundary.
- No new federal regulations or restrictions would apply to non-refuge land within an expanded boundary.
- Land use planning and zoning remain under County authority unless land is acquired by the Service.

What If I Don't Want to Sell My Land?

- You would be under no obligation to sell your property if you choose not to.
- It is the established policy of the Service to acquire land only from willing sellers.
- Other alternatives may interest you, such as conservation easements, life estates, partial sale, or cooperative agreements.

For more information, contact:
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Above Left: Bull elk (©Derek Hanson)
Above: Male redhead duck (©John C. Kerkering)
Background: Meadow at the forest edge (USFWS)